



City of Bellevue Utilities

Non-Toxic Cleaning



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Non-toxic Cleaning Recipes



Bathtub, Shower and Sink Cleaner

- Baking soda
- Castile liquid soap

Sprinkle on porcelain fixtures and rub with a moist cloth. Add soap to the cloth for more cleaning power. Rinse well when finished.



Drain Cleaner

- Baking soda
- Vinegar
- Boiling water
- Drain Cleaning Tool

Use this recipe for minor clogs. Pour ½ cup of baking soda down the drain first, then ½ cup of vinegar. Let it fizz for a few minutes. Then pour down a tea kettle full of boiling water. Repeat if needed. If the clog is stubborn, use a drain cleaning tool. If clogs happen frequently, consider adding a drain protector to catch hair and debris.



Window and Mirror Cleaner

- 1/4 tsp Castile liquid soap
- 3 tbsp vinegar
- 2 cups water
- Spray bottle (24 ounce or larger)

Put ingredients in a spray bottle and shake. The soap is important as it cuts wax residue from products you may have used in the past. Spray on surface and rub with a cloth. Label your bottle.



Oven Cleaner

- 1 cup or more of baking soda
- Water
- A squirt or two of Castile liquid soap

Not for use on self-cleaning ovens. Sprinkle water generously over bottom of oven, cover grime with enough baking soda until surface is totally white. Sprinkle more water over the top. Let mixture set overnight. You can easily wipe up the grease the next morning. When you have cleaned up the mess, dab a bit of liquid soap on a sponge, and wash the remaining residue from the oven. This recipe requires “elbow grease,” but is not toxic.



Toilet Bowl Cleaner

- Baking soda
- Castile liquid soap

Sprinkle baking soda inside the bowl. Add a few drops of soap. Scrub with a toilet brush.



Linoleum and Floor Cleaner

- 1/4 cup vinegar
- Bucket of warm water

Mop with a mixture of 1/2 cup vinegar in a bucket of warm water. The vinegar scent will go away shortly after the floor dries.



All-purpose Cleaner

- Castile liquid soap

Add a drop of soap on a wet cloth and rub briskly.



Mold Killers

- 2 tsp tea tree oil
- 2 cups water

Combine in a spray bottle, shake to blend, and spray on problem areas. Do not rinse. Tea tree oil is relatively expensive, but a little goes a long way. Tea tree oil should never be used in homes with pet birds.



Citrus All-purpose Cleaner

- Peels from 1 orange, grapefruit, lemon or lime
- 3 cups white vinegar
- 1 clean, glass quart jar with lid
- 1 clean 32 ounce spray bottle

Combine the citrus peel and vinegar in the quart jar. Fasten the lid on the jar and store the mixture in a cupboard for two weeks. Shake occasionally. Remove the peels from the jar. Pour the strained liquid into a spray bottle and fill with water.



Furniture Polish

- 1/2 tsp oil, such as olive
- 1/4 cup vinegar or fresh lemon juice

Mix ingredients in a glass jar. Dab a soft cloth in the solution and wipe onto wood surfaces. Cover the jar to store.

Clean, polish, unclog, and handle pests the safe and healthy way.

Tips for purchasing cleaning products:

Read the label before you buy.

Buy and use the least hazardous product that does the job. Avoid products labeled DANGER, POISON, CAUTION, or WARNING.

Never mix household cleaners.

Do not mix bleach with other cleaners or soaps, especially ammonia products. These mixtures create hazardous gasses.

Properly dispose of store-bought cleaners.

Many products are prohibited from the garbage. Visit www.bellevuewa.gov/hazardous-waste to find out which items need special disposal and where to take them.

Use safer alternatives.

Clean efficiently using common, less-hazardous, and inexpensive products.

Choose a product with little or no scent and avoid aerosols.

Perfume chemicals may be irritants for children and people with respiratory ailments or sensitive skin. Aerosol overspray may contain propellants or solvents. Pump sprayers or wipe-on liquids typically use less product.

Avoid air fresheners and fabric softeners.

These products add chemicals to indoor and outdoor air, which may trigger asthma and skin ailments. The best way to freshen air is to open windows and circulate outside air. Did you know that indoor air is almost 100 times more polluted from gases and particles than outside? (Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

Remember with non-toxic cleaners:

- Keep all cleaners out of reach of children and pets.
- Do not mix cleaners with other products.
- Always test cleaners on a small area before using on entire surface.
- Label your homemade products



Bug Spray for Plants or Ant Spray

- 2 tsp peppermint-scented Castile soap
- Water

Fill a spray bottle with water and add 2 tsp of peppermint scented Castile soap. To prevent foaming, add the soap last. Spray this mixture directly on bugs that are on plants. The peppermint scent will also help to repel other insects that you can't see. Peppermint oil should never be used in homes with pet birds.



Slugs and Snail Tips

There are a few different ways to manage slugs and snails in your garden.

- Create a barrier to keep them away from your plants. Use broken eggshells or a 3-inch-high copper barrier around plants.
- Offer items for slugs to eat, like sliced cucumbers, to keep them away from your other plants. Consider planting mustard for them.
- Set a trap of 1 tsp sugar, 1 cup warm water, and 1 tsp dry yeast in a shallow bowl. This will trap and kill slugs.



Mole Repellent

- Handfuls of fresh mint
- Blender
- Water

Mix mint and water in a blender. Mix the blended materials in a large pot of water and simmer for 20-30 minutes. This will create a concentrate to make about six gallons of repellent. Pour the diluted mixture into mole holes and around the area where you see mole holes. Persistently add this until you no longer see signs of moles. Moles do not like the scent of mint and will move. Note: Mole traps are prohibited in Washington state, so a repellent is a good option. (Source: Ciscoe.com)



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-6932 (voice) or email recycle@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov. If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.